



# Wellington Park Management Plan 2005

## 5 Year Major Review

### Issues Discussion Paper: Introduction

This paper is a discussion of the issues raised during the Trust's initial rounds of community and stakeholder consultation, including the call for submissions on how the community values the Park and what it sees are the threats and opportunities for the Park. It also draws upon the findings of external reviews by the [Parks Forum](#) and [SGS Economics and Planning](#), and from numerous studies and reports that have been developed since 2005.

The paper is in four parts:

Part 1 (contained in this document) briefly describes the review process and timelines.

Part 2 (contained in this document) gives a summary of the progress made in implementing the actions in the current Management Plan. Key achievements are highlighted in *Summary of Achievements 2005 to 2011*, and a review of implementation of actions is given in *Progress in Implementing the 2005 Management Plan*. There is also a more [Detailed Review](#) of implementation of actions in the Management Plan – this is published as a separate document.

Part 3 is contained in a separate web-document, which you can either [view on-line](#) or print off as hard copy. This section describes the comments received from stakeholders and the wider community regarding the issues they believe are important in relation to Park management, how those issues are currently managed and what the future management options may be.

Part 3 also offers an opportunity for you to add your comments to the paper. It aims to be a stimulus for discussion within the community, and may not cover other issues that interest you in the Park, or that have not been directly raised during the initial consultation period. It provides an opportunity for you to comment on key management issues, and to give the Trust an idea as to how you think it should proceed with the review of the Management Plan.

The Appendices (contained in a separate document) contains tables showing the possible and prohibited activities, uses and developments under the current Management Plan, and descriptions of the current management zones.

The paper is provided in both electronic ([on-line](#)) and hard copy formats – you can make a submission using either format, or can post or email us your comments. You can comment on the listed issues and options, or raise new issues that you feel have not been adequately covered. If using hard copy, then feel free to add additional comments beyond the space provided.

We have also established a [web-forum](#) to provide an opportunity for dialogue within the community – we encourage you to register and join the conversation! **Please note however that a comment on the web-forum is not a formal representation to the Trust.**

## Part 1 Review Process

### Background

Wellington Park covers over 18 250ha and is reserved under the *Wellington Park Act 1993*. The Park is managed by the Wellington Park Management Trust, in association with the City Councils of Glenorchy and Hobart, the Parks and Wildlife Service and Southern Water. The Park is reserved for the purposes of: the provision of tourism and recreation; the protection of flora and fauna; the preservation of features of natural beauty or scenic interest; the protection of features of historical, Aboriginal, archaeological, scientific or geomorphological interest; and the protection of water catchment values.

The Park is managed in accordance with the *Wellington Park Management Plan 2005* and the various subsidiary plans and strategies prepared in accordance with the Management Plan. The Management Plan is a statutory document that sets the management vision for the Park, and contains strategic and on-ground actions to protect its natural and cultural values. The 2005 Plan recommends that a major review of the Plan be undertaken after five years.

The Act establishes the Trust to provide a co-operative approach to management. This means that the various land-owning and managing agencies within the Park must manage their respective areas in accordance with policies and procedures prepared by the Trust. This model of management has been resoundingly endorsed by all management agencies, and relies entirely on a high degree of co-operation between the Trust, the State Government, management agencies and the community.

The make-up of the Trust board is contained in Appendix 3 of this paper, and includes representatives from the above management agencies, Tourism Tasmania and DPIPWE.

### Review Process

The aims of this review are to:

- ❖ examine how the community values the Park and how best those values are incorporated in to the new Management Plan;
- ❖ determine the success of the Management Plan as a strategic and regional planning tool;
- ❖ determine what improvements may be made to the Plan's existing format and recommendations; and
- ❖ identify Park management issues that may have arisen during the intervening period.

The review process is being undertaken in a number of stages:

Stage	Task	Status
1	Initial analysis and research, including initial community and stakeholder consultation	<i>Completed</i>
2	Independent review of key identified issues	<i>Completed</i>
3	Release of <i>Issues Discussion Paper</i> for broader community input	<i>Current</i>
4	Preparation of draft Management Plan	<i>Dec 2011 - April 2012</i>
5	Draft Management Plan released for public comment	<i>April 2012</i>
6	Independent review of submissions by the Tasmanian Planning Commission	<i>July 2012</i>

The review process will take into consideration the suite of existing strategies and policies that underpin the Management Plan and give greater detail to guide the management actions in the Park. The relevant documents are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Wellington Park Planning Framework

Document	Date	Status
Wellington Park Management Plan	2005 (1997)	Statutory
<b>Site Development Plans</b>		
Springs Zone Site Development Plan	2002 (1998)	Policy: required by Management Plan
Pinnacle Zone Site Development Plan	2001	Policy: required by Management Plan
Myrtle Forest Site Development Plan	2004	Policy/Design
Springs Zone Master Plan	2008	Design
<b>Recreation Strategies</b>		
Walking Track Strategy	2003	Policy: required by Management Plan
Bike Strategy	2005 (2000)	Policy: required by Management Plan
<b>Operational Strategies</b>		
Fire Management Strategy	2006 (2000)	Policy: required by Management Plan
Design and Infrastructure Manual	2006 (2003)	Guideline: required by Management Plan
Sign Manual	2002	Guidelines
Drinking Water Catchment Management Strategy	2002	Policy (prepared by Hobart Water)
Springs Zone Interpretation Strategy	2008	Guidelines
<b>Heritage Policies/Plans</b>		
Historic Heritage Audit and Inventory	2005	Assessment & Advice
Upper Merton Historic Heritage Assessment	2006	Assessment & Advice
Junction Cabin Area Historic Heritage Assessment	2006	Assessment & Advice
Former Exhibition Gardens Conservation Management Plan	2006	Policy
Springs Initial Conservation Policy	2007	Policy
Myrtle Forest Conservation Policy	2008	Policy
Pinnacle Area Heritage Assessment	2010	Assessment & Advice
(draft) Mountain Water Supply Conservation management Plan	2010	Policy
<b>Administrative Policies</b>		
Commercial Visitor Service Guidelines	2007	Guidelines
Vehicle Hygiene Protocol	2007	Operational Guidelines
Agency Induction Kit	2007	Operational Guidelines
Corporate Strategic Plan	2006	Administration
Communications Plan	2006	Administration
Regulations Awareness Programme: Guidelines for Field Staff	2010	Operational Guidelines
<b>External Plans/Policies</b>		
Planning Schemes(Hobart; Glenorchy; Kingborough; Huon Valley; Derwent Valley)		Statutory
Pinnacle Zone Local Area Plan (HCC)	2001	Statutory
Springs Zone Local Area Plan (HCC)	2002	Statutory

## **Part 2 Progress with the Current Management Plan**

### **Summary of Achievements 2005 to 2011**

The Trust has, through a co-operative approach with management agencies and the community, achieved considerable success in implementing recommended actions in the current Management Plan. Some of the actions are visible in the Park, while others remain less visible but are essential to the ongoing consistent administration and management of the area.

Significant initiatives over the last five years include:

- The endorsement of a Sustainable Transport System policy
- Development of Design and Infrastructure Manual, providing a Park-wide approach to infrastructure, including a comprehensive Sign Manual.
- Approval of a visitors centre and cafe at the Springs with associated improvements to infrastructure.
- The completion of a new Fire Management Strategy and employment of a part-time fire management co-ordinator.
- Promotion of the Regulations Awareness Program and implementation of the Wellington Park Regulations by the Park Ranger.
- A suite of Heritage studies completed and employment of a part-time cultural heritage co-ordinator.
- The preparation of a suite of Landscape Assessments projects – 3 main studies completed.
- An increase in number of commercial operators from 25 in 2005 to 76 operators now operating in the Park.
- The completion of the North South Multi Use Track.
- Being a key player in the development of the draft Greater Hobart Mountain Bike Plan.

### **MAJOR GRANT SUCCESSES SINCE 2005**

- EnviroFund 2002-06 (Australian Government): Park Management and Rehabilitation >\$150 000
- National Disaster Mitigation Programme 2005-08 (Australian Government): Fire Threat Mitigation \$95 000
- Bushfire Mitigation Programme 2009-11 (Australian Government): \$70 000
- Urban Heritage and Renewal Fund 2010 (State Government): Heritage Protection and Interpretation \$241 000

### **MARKETING INITIATIVES**

- Community and Agency Information Sheets
- Wellington Park Bike Map
- Wellington Park Recreation Map (produced by TASMAP)
- Website ([www.wellingtonpark.org.au](http://www.wellingtonpark.org.au))

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Coordination of Reference Groups
- Founding Member - Mountain Festival Association Inc. (Mountain Festivals: 2000 – 2010)

### **AWARDS SINCE 2005**

- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects / Local Government Association of Tasmania Greenspace Partnership: *Pinnacle Lookout and Walkway* (2005)
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Project Design: *Pinnacle Lookout and Walkway* (2005)
- National Trust of Australia: *Tasmanian Heritage Icon Award* (2009)

## **EXTERNAL REVIEWS**

### ***Parks Forum Findings***

The Parks Forum is an international peak body for park management organisations. It conducted a review of the Trust's administration and its current Management Plan in March 2011. The review process involved two days of interviewing key officers, Trust members, care groups and individuals involved with managing the Park, and a one day workshop.

The review findings gave a very positive report on the current management processes and the current Management Plan.

It reported that the evidence is that the Trust model as a broker to manage relationships with the multiple land management agencies is working well and there is a genuine willingness among all parties to work co-operatively together. There is also evidence that the current management plan has improved the Park environment and that the plan has delivered a clear benefit, both social and environmental.

The report suggested that there would be a benefit in formalising some key management processes and in developing more structured reporting and performance monitoring. It also suggested that opportunities exist to improve the overall co-ordination of approval processes and to enhance the level of reporting and accountability from delivery agents to provide a better understanding of how well the Management Plan is being delivered. It suggested that the new Management Plan should include Performance Indicators and monitoring, and methods of gathering information about changing trends or increases in visitor use should be developed to feed into the performance monitoring program.

The full report from the Parks Forum review is available [here](#).

### ***Review of Activities, Use and Development***

As part of the review of the broader Management Plan, the Trust outsourced a review of activities, use and development within the Park. This review was conducted by SGS Economics and Planning in conjunction with Myriad Research. The project brief required: an evaluation of how activities, use and development are assessed under the current MP, including a review of the existing management zones and assessment standards; an indication of possible future use and development opportunities within the Park; and recommendations for improving the MP in relation to these issues. They also conducted interviews with key stakeholders and with commercial operators in the Park.

The results of the review indicated some concerns with the clarity and structure of the Management Plan in relation to assessment of use and development, however endorsed the broad management zoning approach. The review noted the need to integrate the Management Plan with the template planning schedules being prepared by the State Government, however also noted that the Park has particular values that need to be recognised and managed.

The results of that independent review have been incorporated into this Discussion Paper, however a full copy of the consultant's report can be found [here](#).

### ***Review of Progress in Implementing current Management Plan***

To assist in developing this paper a detailed review of the overall progress in implementing the existing Management Plan recommended actions has also been conducted and is available [here](#).